

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-85 were pending. Claims 1-6, 10, 15-18, 20, 28-35, 37, 39, 41-43, 54, 55 and 73-85 were rejected. Claims 7, 9, 11-14, 19, 21-27, 36, 38, 40, 44-53 and 56-72 were objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent forms.

In this response, claims 7, 36, 56, and 74-85 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1, 9, 11-14, 19, 22, 35, 38, 40, 44, 55-64, 66, and 72 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Specifically, independent claims 1, 35, and 55 have amended to include an allowable subject matter of the objected to claims 7, 36, and 56. Claims 9, 11-14, 19, 22, 38, 40, 44, 56-64, 66, and 72 have been amended as independent claims including substantially all limitations of their respective base and intervening claims. The rest of the claims depend from one of the above independent claims. Therefore, the pending claims as amended in the present applications are allowable.

While Applicant does not concede that the Examiner's position is correct on the merits, Applicant has sought to obtain the claims that were objected to.


In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits the present application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (408) 720-8300.

Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any shortage of fees in connection with this response.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

Date: May 27, 2005



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